

Country Report for SUZMUN
The Russian Federation

Russia is the largest country on the world, covers about one eighth of earth's surface. It's consists of Northern Asia and Eastern Europe, and is known for once being the greatest communist country in the world, and competing with America's power over the world.

The Russian Federation has a weak multiparty political system with a strong presidency, a government headed by a prime minister, and a bicameral legislature (Federal Assembly) consisting of a lower house (State Duma) and an upper house (Federation Council). Although the government corruption has been common in Russia, the culture still flourishes, and the literacy rate is 99.4%, almost 100%. About 7 million students attended Russia's 1,090 institutions of higher education in 2006, but continued reform is critical to producing students with skills to adapt to a market economy. Because great emphasis is placed on science and technology in education, Russian medical, mathematical, scientific, and space and aviation research is still generally of a high order.

Although Russia's ratio of doctors to the population is higher than America's, it still faces bad health care problems. Many Russian people die because of various diseases, while Russia it self also faces the problem of birth rates being lower than the death rates. It is predicted that Russia's population will lose 30% of its original number.

The Russian labor forces are undergoing a huge change. Although they are well educated and skilled, it is largely mismatched to the rapidly changing needs of the Russian economy. At least Russia's official unemployment rate has dropped to 6.9% in recent years, and labor shortages have started to appear in some high-skilled job markets. Unemployment is the highest among the women and young people.

While Russia is slowly getting back on his feet after the collapse of the Soviet Union, Moscow is also becoming a increasingly important economic and business center. It has become Russia's main magnet for foreign investment and business presence. Russia is still a country that depends on exporting natural resources to make money. Exporting petroleum and gasoline had been Russia's main way of getting money. In 2009, the world has entered the first global recession since the Second World War. The decline in trade had affected Russia deeply. Because of the economic crisis, the oil prices had dropped to 40 USD. That had a great impact on petroleum exporting countries, including Russia. As a result, Russia's real GDP is likely to contract 4.5 percent in 2009.

Russia had been influencing the Middle East and Afghanistan for a long time. Before the USSR collapsed, the Russians had invaded Afghanistan because of the original "puppet" government was overthrown by the rebels. After restoring the original government for a few years, the Taliban soon took over Afghanistan and pushed the Soviets out with America's aid. Recent years, Russia had been selling \$1.2-billion Nuclear reactors, and \$700 million worth of TOR-M1 (SA-15) short-range surface-to-air missiles and is now reportedly negotiating the sale of long-range anti-aircraft SA-10 missiles (known by their Russian designation, S-300). With these weapons buttressed by radars and computers, these missile systems could form a nationwide air-defense that would make future air strikes to disarm Iran's nuclear weapons program all but impossible. The Russians had also empowered Iran to be able to threaten the U.S.'s allies and interests, and also control the Gulf stream, and deny the U.S.'s access to the Gulf.

Russia had been stirring up a lot of regional unstabilities in order to raise the oil price, so he could benefit from that, since Russia exports oil also. All of these acts lead to the goal of positioning itself to be a co-equal party alongside the U.S., while placating radical Islamist forces.

Russia is claiming that it is supporting a more robust society, but the freedom of media is still severely restricted, with the government applying direct pressure on media owners and journalists. The Russian people are enthusiastic supporters of democracy, but they are not sure about the freedom of the

press.

Russia is slowly recovering from the disaster of communism, and will eventually gain back its glory once again. But in order to get to that goal, Russia will have to put in more effort to banish their corruption in the government, encourage the development of new technologies, focus the industries not just on exporting natural resources, but other manufactured products. I believe, after some years, Russia will once again become a strong nation in the world.